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Hee Kyung Lee

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EXAMINER

LUONG, ALAN H

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2623

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/666,371	Applicant(s) LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner ALAN LUONG	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 10, 2008, has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-12, 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No.7,055167 issued to Masters (hereinafter Master); in view of WO 00/40021 to Edwin Montie et al. (hereinafter Montie).

Regarding to claim 1: Fig. 3 of Master illustrates a system [1] support “a personal channel service providing method for outputting a television (TV) program preferred by a user, which is referred to as a preferred program, through a personal

channel of a personal digital recorder (PDR) [4] beginning at a time preferred by the user, which is referred to as a preferred duration, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) a PVR [4] “receives content description data” (connections 14a of Fig. 3) of a program to be broadcasted” from “a TV network “ as broadcast source [2] and responses “instance description data” (connections 14b of Fig. 3) of a program to the broadcast source [2]. **(see Master, Fig. 1, 3 col. 2, line 53 to col. 3, line 13 and col. 6 lines 9-23).**

(b) Fig. 4 of Master illustrates the viewing menu 40 on display [6] that “determines the preferred duration and the preferred program in the preferred duration” into submenu [44]” based on usage history of the PDR” [4] **(see Master, Fig. 4, col. 7 line 44 to col. 8 line 30)** and Fig. 2 of Master shows the procedure selectively updates the viewing menu 40 upon viewer input on the predetermined day of the week to provide for a history of broadcast programs the viewer actually selected on the predetermined day of the week that meets “updating the instance description data to include the preferred duration and the preferred program” **(see Master, steps 210-214 of Fig. 2 col. 5 lines 12-26).** However, Master reference is silent with “generating an electronic program guide for informing the user that the preferred program is outputted on the personal channel at the preferred duration based on the updated instance description data”

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from generating an electronic program guide. Fig. 1 of Montie illustrates a

receiver apparatus includes EPG module [14] generates an on-screen overview programs stored in the memory [11] can be accessed by a virtual channel module [15] for creating the virtual channel based on a personal program schedule that is composed by the schedule module [16] that meets “generating an electronic program guide for informing the user that the preferred program is outputted on the personal channel at the preferred duration based on the updated instance description data” (**see Montie, page 4, line 10-page 6 line 18**). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the PDR with personal channel service of Master including EPG module as taught by Montie to generate EPG information for supporting channel information.

Regarding to claim 2. Masters disclose the method as recited in claim 1; also discloses wherein the step b) includes the steps of:

e) selecting the preferred duration, such as day and time(TUESDAY, 10PM), genre preferred in the preferred duration, which is referred to as a preferred genre (CH7 FRASIER) and a predetermined number of preferred program titles (CH 11 NEWS) based on the usage history of the PDR (as discussion in claim 1-b), and generating user preference data (view menu 40) to include the preferred duration (Submenu 42: Day/Segment), the preferred genre (submenu 44: category name or genre), and the preferred program titles (submenu 44:channel 2 news); (**Master, see Fig.4 col. 7 line 44 to col. 8 line 49**)

f) if the preferred duration is for watching a program stored in the PDR (**col. 8, lines 31-38**), extracting group information of a program title that belong to the

preferred genre among the preferred program titles based on the content description data (**Master, col. 8, lines 50-58 and Fig.4**); and

g) determining a program following a most recently watched program among the programs that belong to the group as the preferred program in the preferred duration; **see Master, col. 8 line 50 to col. 9 line 13**)

Regarding to **claim 3**: Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 2, wherein the preferred duration, such as day and time, is selected based on total duration of programs outputted by the PDR in particular time duration. (Limitation of claim 1 of **Master, col. 9 lines 15-32**).

Regarding to **claim 6**: Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 1; further discloses wherein the step b) includes the steps of:

h) selecting the preferred duration, such as day and time, preferred genre in the preferred duration, and a predetermined number of preferred program titles based on the usage history of the PDR (see claim 1 discussion), and generating user preference data to include the preferred duration, the preferred genre, and the preferred program titles;(same ground rejection of claim 2-e)

i) if the preferred duration is for watching a program broadcasted in real-time (**Master , col. 8 lines 38-49**), extracting a list of real-time broadcasting programs from the instance description data (**Col. 8 lines 50-58**); and

j) determining a program that belongs to the preferred genre among the programs on the list as the preferred program in the preferred duration. (Same ground rejection of claim 2-g).

Regarding to **claim 7**: same claim 3 ground rejection.

Regarding to **claim 10**: Master discloses a personal channel service providing apparatus (PDR 4 of Fig. 1, 3; **col. 2 lines 30- 46**) for outputting a TV program preferred by a user, which is referred to as a preferred program, through a personal channel beginning at a time preferred by the user, which is referred to as a preferred duration, the apparatus [4] comprises: “ a memory portion” management module [8] is implemented in connection with a central processor “for storing a control program” to control PVR [4]; (see Master, **Figs.1, 3; col. 6 lines 44-61**), “a database” storage[10] “stores instance description data , usage history of the personal channel service providing apparatus”; (**col. 6 line 62 to col.7 line 17**)and “ a display portion” [6] is connected with display generator [18] inside PDR[4] by [12] “for outputting an EPG” information [26] from management module [8]; (**Master, Fig. 3, col. 5 lines 28-61**). However, Master reference is silent with “a processing portion for updating the instance description data based on the user preference data and generating an EPG which informs the user that the preferred program is outputted through the personal channel at the preferred duration based on the updated instance description data, the processing portion being connected to the memory portion, the database, and the display portion”

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from the apparatus includes a processing portion is connected to the memory portion, the database, and the display portion for updating the instance description data. Fig. 1 of Montie illustrates “a processing portion” includes a [CPU 5] being connected to the memory portion [ROM 12], the database [11] and the display portion [8 and 9] (**see Montie, page 4, line 10-page 5 line 14**); and the processing portion also includes the schedule module [16] composes a personal program schedule for a virtual channel comprising recorded programs and/or broadcast program meets “for updating the instance description data based on the user preference data” (**see Montie, page 5, line 26-page 6 line 18**) and the EPG module [14] is “generating an EPG which informs the user that the preferred program is outputted through the personal channel [virtual channel] at the preferred duration” is scheduled by [16]” based on the updated instance description data” (**see Montie, page 5, lines 15-25**). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the PDR for personal channel service of Master with a processing portion as taught by Montie; for updating and generating EPG which informs the user that the preferred program is outputted through the personal channel at the preferred duration based on the updated instance description data.

Regarding to **claim 11**: same claim 2 ground rejection.

Regarding to **claim 12**: same claim 3 ground rejection.

Regarding to **claim 15**: same claim 6 ground rejection.

Regarding to **claim 16**: same claim 7 ground rejection.

3. Claims 4-5, 8-9, 13-14 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No.7,055167 (US'167) issued to Masters and Montie; in view of US Patent No. 7,212,730 (Hereinafter US'730) issued to Boston et al.

Regarding to claim 4: Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 2; but fails to teach wherein a genre of a program that occupies the longest duration among the programs.

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from a genre of a program. Boston, the same field endeavor, teaches wherein a genre of a program that occupies the longest duration among the programs outputted by the PDR in the preferred duration is selected as the preferred genre. (Genre field 430 is used to identify the types of programs the user enjoys watching; (see **col. 6 lines 20-38**); and Metadata 540 maintained for the program may include the program title 550, the length of program 565, the genre of the program 580. The metadata is searchable by the DVR in selecting a program that based on the user's preferences; that user is likely to enjoy watching; (**see Boston, col. 6 lines 44-54 and Fig. 4**).Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify a metadata maintained for the length of a genre program as taught

by Boston in the PDR of Masters; in order to create a personal channel based on category's user.

Regarding to **claim 5**: Boston discloses the method as recited in claim 2, wherein the preferred program titles are selected based on the program duration outputted by the PDR, the EPG, and a frequency of program information exposure. **(Boston, Fig.19 col. 16 lines 19-62 and Fig. 25 col. 20 lines 36 to col. 21 line 29).**

Regarding to claim 8: same ground rejection of claim 4.

Regarding to claim 9: same ground rejection of claim 5.

Regarding to claim 13: same claim 4 ground rejection.

Regarding to claim 14: same claim 5 ground rejection.

Regarding to claim 17: same claim 8 ground rejection.

Regarding to claim 18: same claim 9 ground rejection.

4. Claims 19-23, 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 7,055,167 issued to Masters (hereinafter Master); in view of US Pub. No. 20030126600 A1 (US'600) to Heuvelman; further in view of PCT/EP99/10058 to Edwin Montie et al. (hereinafter Montie).

Regarding to claim 19. Masters teaches a personal channel service providing method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving content description data (**see Master, col. 3 lines 1-13; Fig. 2 step 200-206; col. 3 line 31-col.4 line47**) and instance description data of broadcasting programs (**step 208, Fig. 2 col. 4 lines 48-60**)

b) determining a broadcasting program (**col. 2 lines 58-67**) which is included in the personal channel based on user preference data, the content description data (recorded program is transmitted from service provider (2 of Fig.3), and instance description data (the current watching program at user's EPG (26 of Fig. 3) (**see Fig. 3, col. 5 line28 to col. 7 line 43; Fig. 4 col. 7 line 53 to col. 8 line 19**);

c) updating the instance description data to include information of the determined broadcasting program (**see Master, steps 210-214 of Fig. 2 col. 5 lines 12-26**); and

However, Masters fails to teach generating a personal channel; generating an electronic program guide based on the content description data and the updated instance description data.

In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from generating a personal channel. Heuvelman, the same field endeavor, teaches generating a personal channel (**see Heuvelman, ¶0005-¶0009, and ¶0063**). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the personal channel service of Masters with a personalized channel generating as taught by Heuvelman in order to increase the user-friendliness and level of user control regarding program selection.

Neither Master nor Heuvelman teaches “generating an electronic program guide based on the content description data and the updated instance description data”. In an analogous art directed toward a similar problem namely improving the results from generating an electronic program guide based on the content description data and the updated instance description data. Fig. 1 of Montie illustrates a receiver apparatus includes EPG module [14] generates an on-screen overview programs stored in the memory [11] can be accessed by a virtual channel module [15] for creating the virtual channel based on a personal program schedule that is composed by the schedule module [16] that meets “generating an electronic program guide based on the content description data and the updated instance description data” (**see Montie, page 4, line 10-page 6 line 18**). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the PDR with personal channel service of Master including EPG module as taught by Montie to generate EPG information for supporting channel information.

Regarding to claim 20. Masters teaches the user preference data is updated in accordance with user history information (sub menu 42, 44 in view menu 40 of Fig. 4; **see Master, col. 8 lines 3- 30**).

Regarding to claim 21. Masters also teaches the user history information includes information of user action (based on sub menu 42, 44 in view menu 40 of Fig. 4; user can Edit or Execute the viewing menu) when the user reviews the broadcasting program in the EPG. (**See Master, col. 8 line 31-col. 9 line 13**).

Regarding to claim 22. Masters further teaches the content description data includes program information and group information. (sub menu 44 contains channels and category group; **See Master, Fig. 4 col. 8 lines 3- 30**).

Regarding to claim 23. Masters teaches the method as recited in claim 19, wherein the instance description data includes program location and service information (see **Fig. 3 col. 5 line 28 to col. 7 line 43**).

Regarding to claim 24. The method as recited in claim 19, Heuvelman also teaches “wherein the user preference data includes a user's preferred day and time, genre, or title”. (see ¶0062-¶0063)

Regarding to claim 25. The scope of claim 25 is substantially the same or slightly broader than of claim 19 since apparatus in claim 25 requires every structural element of claim 19. Thus, claim 25 is also rejected by Master, Heuvelman and Montie for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claim 19.

Regarding to claim 26. Same claim 20 ground rejection.

Regarding to claim 27. Same claim 21 ground rejection.

Regarding to claim 28. Same claim 22 ground rejection.

Regarding to claim 29. Same claim 23 ground rejection.

Regarding to claim 30. Same claim 24 ground rejection.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALAN LUONG whose telephone number is (571)270-5091. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs., 8:00am-5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Beliveau can be reached on (571) 272-7343. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 2623

/Scott Beliveau/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623